

APR 13 2016

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
CHARLOTTESVILLE DIVISION

CONCORDIA PHARMACEUTICALS,)
INC.,)

Plaintiff,)

v.)

METHOD PHARMACEUTICALS, LLC,)
et al.,)

Defendants.)

Civil Action No. 3:14CV00016

MEMORANDUM OPINION

Hon. Glen E. Conrad
Chief United States District Judge

In this action under the Lanham Act, the plaintiff, Concordia Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“Concordia”), and the defendants, Method Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Matthew Scott Tucker (collectively, “Method”), have moved to exclude certain opinions offered by the opposing side’s expert witnesses. The court held a hearing on the motions on March 3, 2016.¹ This memorandum opinion sets forth the court’s rulings on the parties’ motions.

Background

The facts of this case are outlined in detail in the court’s memorandum opinion on the parties’ cross-motions for summary judgment. Thus, only a brief summary follows here.

In May of 2014, Concordia acquired the Donnatal® line of products (“Donnatal”) from PBM Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“PBM”). Donnatal is a line of combination phenobarbital and belladonna alkaloid (“PBA”) products that is used as adjunctive therapy in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (“IBS”) and acute enterocolitis. Donnatal is available by prescription in either tablet or elixir form.

¹ During the March 3, 2016 hearing, the court also heard oral argument on the parties’ cross-motions for summary judgment. On March 29, 2016, Concordia’s motion for summary judgment was denied, and Method’s motion for summary judgment was granted in part and denied in part. The case is proceeding to trial solely on Concordia’s claim under the Lanham Act.

Donnatal was first introduced in the 1930s, before drug manufacturers were required to prove that drugs were both safe and effective in order to obtain approval by the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”). Although Donnatal products have been approved for safety, the FDA has yet to determine their effectiveness.

For over thirty years, Donnatal faced competition from generic PBA products that were pharmaceutically equivalent to Donnatal. Beginning in August of 2011, manufacturers of the generic versions began to take their products off the market. Once the inventories of previously manufactured generic products were eliminated, Donnatal was the only line of PBA products available for prescription.

In 2013, Method began making plans to develop and market a new product that would be pharmaceutically equivalent to Donnatal. The new product was eventually named Me-PB-Hyos. Method reached out to Winder Laboratories, LLC (“Winder”), which had previously developed another product for Method, and expressed an interest in having Winder manufacture its Me-PB-Hyos products. Winder and Method agreed on the price that Winder would charge for supplying the products, and Method issued purchase orders for initial stability tests.

In March of 2014, Method used publicly-available copies of the Donnatal product labels and package inserts as templates to create labels and inserts for the Me-PB-Hyos products. Method then proceeded to list the Me-PB-Hyos products with two pharmaceutical databases, Medi-Span and First Databank, which are used by members of the pharmaceutical industry to determine whether generic substitutes are available for brand name products. Method advised the databases that it intended to start marketing the Me-PB-Hyos products on June 1, 2014. Based on the information provided by Method, which included the product labels and package inserts, the Me-PB-Hyos products were assigned the same Generic Product Identifier (“GPI”) as

Donnatal. The listings also indicated that the Me-PB-Hyos products would be available at a lower price.

Ultimately, after this litigation ensued, Method halted its plans to market the Me-PB-Hyos products, and the products were never manufactured by Winder or any other company. In mid-October 2014, Medi-Span removed the listings for the Me-PB-Hyos products. Around the same time, First Databank moved its listings for the Me-PB-Hyos products from active listings to archived listings.

After Method's Me-PB-Hyos products were listed with Medi-Span and First Databank, Donnatal prescriptions and unit sales declined. The parties dispute, however, whether the decline in prescriptions and unit sales was caused by the listings for the Me-PB-Hyos products.

From January of 2012 to June 2014, the prices of Donnatal products increased by over 1,400%. This included a 100% increase that Concordia implemented after acquiring the rights to Donnatal from PBM. It is undisputed that Concordia's profits and profit margin for Donnatal tablets and elixir increased after Method's Me-PB-Hyos products were listed with the databases. However, Concordia claims that its profits would have been even higher if Method had not listed the Me-PB-Hyos products and, thus, that it experienced lost profits as a result of the listings.

Procedural History

PBM commenced this action against Method on April 29, 2014, asserting claims of false advertising and unfair competition under the Lanham Act and related claims under state law. Following a series of amendments, the case is now being pursued against Method and Tucker, Method's founder and president, by Concordia.

Following the completion of discovery, the parties filed cross-motions for summary judgment. On March 29, 2016, Concordia's motion for summary judgment was denied and

Method's motion for summary judgment was granted in part and denied in part. A jury trial on the remaining claims under the Lanham Act is scheduled to begin on April 18, 2016.

The case is now before the court on the parties' motions to exclude opinions proffered by the opposing side's expert witnesses. Method seeks to exclude certain opinions of Dr. Brian Reisetter and Ivan Hofmann. Concordia seeks to exclude certain opinions of Dr. William Fassett and John Wills. Dr. Reisetter and Dr. Fassett are pharmacists who were retained to offer opinions regarding the database listings for Method's Me-PB-Hyos products. Hofmann and Wills are certified public accountants who were retained to offer opinions pertaining to damages.

Standard of Review

The admissibility of expert witness testimony is governed by Rule 702 of the Federal Rules of Evidence. The rule provides as follows:

A witness who is qualified as an expert by knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education may testify in the form of an opinion or otherwise if:

- (a) the expert's scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge will help the trier of fact to understand the evidence or to determine a fact in issue;
- (b) the testimony is based on sufficient facts or data;
- (c) the testimony is the product of reliable principles and methods; and
- (d) the expert has reliably applied the principles and methods to the facts of the case.

Fed. R. Evid. 702.

Under this rule, the district court acts as a gatekeeper to ensure that an expert's testimony "is not only relevant, but reliable." Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharms., Inc., 509 U.S. 579, 589 (1993). "The rule 'requires that the [expert] testimony must be the product of reliable principles and methods that are reliably applied to the facts of the case.'" United States v. Wilson, 484

F.3d 267, 274 (4th Cir. 2007) (quoting Fed. R. Evid. 702 advisory committee's note). In conducting its gatekeeping function, the court's primary goal is "to make certain that an expert, whether basing testimony upon professional studies or personal experience, employs in the courtroom the same level of intellectual rigor that characterizes the practice of an expert in the relevant field." Kumho Tire Co. v. Carmichael, 526 U.S. 137, 152 (1999). The scope of the court's gatekeeping inquiry ultimately "depend[s] upon the particular expert testimony and facts of the case." EEOC v. Freeman, 778 F.3d 463, 466 (4th Cir. 2015) (citing Kumho, 526 U.S. at 150).

The party proffering the expert testimony has the burden of establishing its admissibility by a preponderance of the evidence. Daubert, 509 U.S. at 593 n.10; see also Cooper v. Smith & Nephew, Inc., 259 F.3d 194, 199 (4th Cir. 2001). In deciding whether a party has sustained its burden, the court must focus on the principles and methodology employed by the expert rather than the expert's ultimate conclusions. Daubert, 509 U.S. at 595. As the Supreme Court has recognized, however, "conclusions and methodology are not entirely distinct from one another." General Elec. Co. v. Joiner, 522 U.S. 136, 146 (1997). Neither Daubert nor Rule 702 requires the court "to admit opinion evidence that is connected to existing data only by the ipse dixit of the expert." Id. Instead, the court "may conclude that there is simply too great an analytical gap between the data and the opinion proffered," and accordingly choose to exclude the opinion. Id.

Of course, "the court need not determine that expert testimony a litigant seeks to offer into evidence is irrefutable or certainly correct." United States v. Moreland, 437 F.3d 424, 431 (4th Cir. 2006). "As with all other admissible evidence, expert testimony is subject to being tested by '[v]igorous cross-examination, presentation of contrary evidence, and careful instruction on the burden of proof.'" Id. (quoting Daubert, 509 U.S. at 596). However, because

“expert witnesses have the potential to be both powerful and quite misleading,” the court must ensure that any all expert testimony is both relevant and reliable. Cooper, 259 F.3d at 199 (internal citations and quotation marks omitted).

Discussion

I. Dr. Reisetter

Concordia retained Dr. Brian Reisetter to offer opinions on the market impact and industry consequences of Method’s submissions to Medi-Span and First Databank. Dr. Reisetter is a licensed pharmacist with a doctorate in pharmacy administration, who also works as a consultant for the pharmaceutical and medical industries. He has performed extensive research concerning the effects of pharmaceutical database listings on the perceptions and behavior of pharmacists and doctors. In the instant action, Dr. Reisetter has offered the opinion that Method’s efforts to list its Me-PB-Hyos products with Medi-Span and First Databank “caused the marketplace to believe that there was an actual ‘generic’ or pharmaceutical equivalent for Donnatal appropriate for substitution,” and that this “set off a series of inevitable downstream events in the marketplace that adversely affected the number of prescriptions for Donnatal filled and units sold, despite no such product being available.” Reisetter Rep. ¶ 1.

In moving to exclude Dr. Reisetter’s opinions on the market impact and industry consequences of Method’s submissions to the pharmaceutical databases, Method questions the reliability and relevance of his opinions. Specifically, Method argues that Dr. Reisetter was not provided with full information regarding “availability issues” that were experienced with Donnatal products; that Dr. Reisetter improperly utilized Prozac as an example to explain how generic substitution occurs when a generic drug is linked to a brand drug in a pharmacy software

system based on the products' GPI code; and that Dr. Reisetter improperly relied upon surveys conducted in other cases in forming his opinions in the instant case.

Having considered the parties' arguments, the court concludes that none of the issues identified by Method warrants the exclusion of Dr. Reisetter's testimony. To the extent Method faults Dr. Reisetter for not considering certain discrete "availability issues" that it identified during discovery, such as emails indicating that some pharmacies had incorrect or outdated National Drug Code ("NDC") numbers for Donnatal products, there is no indication that these issues were raised during Dr. Reisetter's deposition or considered by Method's own experts in rendering their opinions. While the availability issues identified by Method could arguably affect the weight accorded to Dr. Reisetter's testimony, the court is unable to conclude that they render his testimony inadmissible. Instead, these issues, and any effect that they may have on Dr. Reisetter's opinions, can be adequately addressed on cross-examination.

The court also declines to preclude Dr. Reisetter from using Prozac to illustrate how generic substitution commonly occurs in the pharmaceutical industry. In his report, Dr. Reisetter did not suggest that Prozac and Donnatal are similarly situated drugs. Instead, he merely used Prozac as an example to explain how generic substitution occurs when a generic drug is linked to a brand drug in a pharmacy software system based on the information contained in the pharmaceutical database listings. Method correctly points out that Prozac and the generic versions of fluoxetine are distinguishable from the products at issue in this case on a number of grounds. However, the court ultimately agrees with Concordia that these distinctions go to the weight of Dr. Reisetter's testimony regarding generic substitution rather than its admissibility.

Finally, the fact that Dr. Reisetter based his opinions, at least in part, on surveys performed in connection with other cases or research projects does not justify excluding Dr.

Reisetter's testimony. While the court may ultimately limit the extent to which Dr. Reisetter is permitted to reference specific responses to survey questions, the court will permit him to offer opinion testimony based on the results of the prior surveys. See Fed. R. Evid. 703 ("If experts in the particular field would reasonably rely on those kinds of facts or data in forming an opinion on the subject, they need not be admissible for the opinion to be admitted."). The defendants remain free to cross-examine Dr. Reisetter about the particular questions posed in his prior surveys, the specific populations of pharmacists surveyed, and the conclusions that he ultimately reached. The defendants are also free to point out that Dr. Reisetter's opinions are not based on quantitative or qualitative research employed to determine actual market behavior in response to the particular database listings at issue in this case. However, the court will not preclude Dr. Reisetter from offering opinions informed by surveys conducted in previous cases.²

For these reasons, Method's motion to exclude the opinions and testimony of Dr. Reisetter will be denied.

II. Dr. Fassett

Method retained Dr. William Fassett to review the reports from Concordia's experts, and to offer his own opinions regarding market conditions applicable to the sale of Donnatal products and the effect of the database listings for Method's Me-PB-Hyos products. Dr. Fassett has been a licensed pharmacist for over 45 years and is a professor emeritus of pharmacotherapy at

² Because the prior surveys conducted by Dr. Reisetter did not account for the actual allegations in this case, Method correctly points out that the survey results would not support a false advertising claim based on a theory of implied falsity. See PBM Prods., LLC v. Mead Johnson & Co., 639 F.3d 111, 122 (4th Cir. 2011) ("Because the surveys failed to account for the actual allegations in the case, they failed to provide the required evidence of [implied] falsity."). Nonetheless, this does not render Dr. Reisetter's opinions inadmissible. Concordia's false advertising claim does not turn on proof of implied falsity. Instead, Concordia maintains that Method made literally false statements regarding its Me-PB-Hyos products. Moreover, as other courts have previously recognized, an expert's "data and testimony need not prove the plaintiffs' case by themselves; they must merely constitute one piece of the puzzle that the plaintiffs endeavor to assemble before the jury." City of Tuscaloosa v. Hacros Chems., Inc., 158 F.3d 548, 564-65 (11th Cir. 1998).

Washington State University. His career has involved the traditional practice of pharmacy, as well as pharmaceutical sales and marketing, pharmacy management, and advising formulary committees with respect to drug coverage decisions. Dr. Fassett also sits on the editorial board of several peer-reviewed publications related to pharmacy and the pharmaceutical industry, and has authored peer-reviewed publications relating to drug use review, product selection, and computer applications in the pharmaceutical industry.

Concordia seeks to exclude three opinions expressed in Dr. Fassett's expert report. The first opinion challenged by Concordia pertains to drug price increases. In his report, Dr. Fassett opined that price increases are not uncommon in the pharmaceutical industry; that the ultimate reactions of pharmacists and prescribers to price increases are generally consistent; and that he would expect formularies to eventually exclude Donnatal, and prescriptions for Donnatal to ultimately decrease, in response to increased prices. Dr. Fassett cited the prescription pain reliever Vivomo as an example of this principle in operation. Vivomo, like Donnatal, currently has no generic equivalent. According to Dr. Fassett's report, the manufacturer increased the price of Vivomo by over 600%, beginning on January 1, 2014. Subsequent to the price increases, Vivomo experienced increased sales dollars, fewer prescriptions and unit sales, exclusion from formularies, and substitution, "all of which," according to Dr. Fassett, "would be expected with Donnatal." Fassett Rep. ¶ 91.

The second opinion challenged by Concordia is Dr. Fassett's opinion that a class review may have affected the formulary status of Donnatal. In his report, Dr. Fassett explained that "low-claim-volume products like Donnatal (with an average of between 7,000 and 12,000 prescriptions per month) may 'fly below the radar' for a period of time until the level of expenditure becomes significant enough to warrant analysis, or until the formulary committee

conducts a review of the entire therapeutic class.” Fassett Rep. ¶ 45. During his deposition, Dr. Fassett further noted that the entry of new drug products into the therapeutic class could trigger a class review that potentially affects the formulary status of any or all drugs within the class.

The final opinion challenged by Concordia is Dr. Fassett’s opinion that he “would not expect a significant degree of loyalty to Donnatal among prescribers or pharmacists.” Fassett Rep. ¶ 84. Because generic versions of Donnatal were commercially available for over 30 years, Dr. Fassett reasoned that “pharmacists and other participants in the market for prescription drugs would have stopped thinking of Donnatal as a brand drug and instead considered it a generic or multi-source product.” Id. ¶ 84.

Concordia seeks to exclude all three of these opinions offered by Dr. Fassett on the ground that they are based on mere speculation. Having thoroughly reviewed Dr. Fassett’s report and the applicable portions of his deposition, the court is unpersuaded. It is clear from the record that Dr. Fassett’s opinions are derived from his decades of experience as a pharmacist, during which he dispensed Donnatal and its generic competitors; his extensive experience working with formulary committees; and his specialized knowledge of how formulary committees make coverage determinations.

The fact that the opinions at issue are based, in large measure, on Dr. Fassett’s personal experience does not preclude him from offering the opinions. “[T]he test of Rule 702 expressly contemplates that an expert may be qualified on the basis of experience.” Wilson, 484 F.3d at 274 (quoting Fed. R. Evid. 702 advisory committee’s note). When an expert relies primarily on his own experience to render an expert opinion, the court must require the witness to “explain how [his] experience leads to the conclusion reached, why [his] experience is a sufficient basis for the opinion, and how [his] experience is reliably applied to the facts.” Id.

Based on the current record, there is substantial reason to believe that Dr. Fassett will be able to establish a sufficient basis for each of the opinions challenged by Concordia. Any perceived weaknesses in the evidentiary support for Dr. Fassett's opinions can be appropriately addressed on cross-examination. Accordingly, Concordia's motion to exclude Dr. Fassett's opinions will be denied.

III. Hofmann

Concordia retained Ivan Hofmann to analyze and quantify the financial damages Concordia experienced as a result of the pharmaceutical database listings for Method's Me-PB-Hyos products. Hofmann concluded that Donnatal prescriptions and sales would have been higher "but for" the listings. Hofmann Rep. ¶ 79. He calculated lost profit damages based on lost Donnatal prescriptions and lost unit sales of Donnatal products. Hofmann ultimately opined that Concordia experienced "no less than \$29.4 million" in lost profits from June 2014 to June 2015 "due to the listing of Me-PB-Hyos" in the pharmaceutical databases. Hofmann Rep. ¶ 81.

After carefully considering Hofmann's report and the portions of his deposition testimony provided by the parties, the court concludes that Hofmann's opinion regarding the amount of lost profit damages incurred by Concordia must be excluded. Specifically, the court finds that Concordia has failed to establish that Hofmann's lost profit calculations were "the product of reliable principles and methods" that were "reliably applied" to the particular facts of this case. Wilson, 484 F.3d at 274. The methodology employed by Hofmann in reaching his conclusions failed to take into account numerous market factors that could have affected Donnatal sales and prescriptions, and was based on selectively chosen data and unsupported assumptions.

For instance, Hofmann concluded that the listings for Method's Me-PB-Hyos products, which were never manufactured or sold, were the sole cause of the reduction in Donnatal prescriptions and sales from June 2014 to June 2015, and that the significant increases in the prices of Donnatal products played no role in the decline. In determining that Donnatal prescription volume is "generally unaffected by price increases," Hofmann purportedly considered whether "historical price increases" resulted in decreased Donnatal prescriptions. Hofmann Rep. ¶¶ 48-55. However, he limited his analysis to two price increases in 2012, which were implemented at a time when existing inventories of competing generic products were being eliminated from the market. Hofmann completely disregarded a price increase that was implemented in December of 2013, which was followed by a reduction in prescription volume and unit sales. The timing of this particular price increase is particularly relevant, since it occurred after generic PBA products had been removed from the market, but before Method's products were listed with the pharmaceutical databases. Nonetheless, it was not addressed in Hoffman's analysis of historical price increases. Concordia has failed to prove that the selective analysis employed by Hofmann in evaluating the effect of increased prices was predicated on a scientifically sound or reliable methodology.

Additionally, in calculating lost profits, Hofmann failed to consider numerous other market factors that could have contributed to the decline in Donnatal sales and prescriptions. For instance, in 2013 and 2014, after the price of Donnatal was significantly increased and generic versions were no longer available, Donnatal was removed from certain health plan formularies. These formulary changes were not addressed in Hofmann's report. Nor was the impact of newer drugs available for the treatment of IBS, which, unlike Donnatal, have been approved for effectiveness by the FDA. Likewise, Hofmann did not consider whether sales of Donnatal were

affected by marketing initiatives or pricing strategies utilized by competitors in the IBS market. Instead, aside from discussing select price increases, Hofmann's report is devoid of any discussion of other factors that could have contributed to the lost profits that Concordia allegedly experienced during the time period at issue.

The court is convinced that this methodological flaw also renders Hofmann's lost profit calculations unreliable. See, e.g., MyGallons LLC v. U.S. Bancorp, 521 F. App'x 297, 307 (4th Cir. 2013) (holding that the district court abused its discretion in allowing testimony by a damages expert that did not rest on "the requisite 'reliable foundation' that was required for such testimony," and emphasizing that the expert's projections "ignored business realities and relied on sheer speculation"); Pharmanetics, Inc. v. Aventis Pharms., Inc., 182 F. App'x 267, 271 (4th Cir. 2006) (affirming the district court's decision to exclude expert testimony on lost sales, where the expert assumed that only the defendant's actions caused the plaintiff's losses and failed to consider other factors that would have caused lost sales); MicroStrategy Inc. v. Business Objects, S.A., 429 F.3d 1344, 1355 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (emphasizing that district courts have "the responsibility to exclude an expert opinion that overlooks factors that render the testimony unreliable and/or speculative"). Even if these other market factors "may not have made a difference in the ultimate outcome of his analysis," Hofmann's failure to consider them, or to offer an explanation for his failure, creates "enough of a doubt as to the overall reliability of [his] opinions as to render them inadmissible." Smithers v. C&G Custom Module Hauling, 172 F. Supp. 2d 765, 771 (E.D. Va. 2000).

The reliability of Hofmann's lost profits calculations is further undermined by the fact that they were based on assumptions unsupported by the record. For instance, Hofmann assumed that the database listings for Method's products had the same effect on the sales of Donnatal

tablets and elixir. However, this assumption is contrary to the very evidence on which Hofmann relied. In his report, Hofmann cited extensively to a declaration executed by Aaron Hullett, a sales director for Concordia, in which Hullett noted that unit sales of Donnatal tablets decreased dramatically after Me-PB-Hyos was listed with Medi-Span and First Databank. While Hullett went on to note that Donnatal is also available as an elixir, he did not attempt to attribute the decline in elixir sales to the presence of Me-PB-Hyos in the pharmaceutical databases. Instead, Hullett acknowledged that “the majority of [elixir] sales are to hospitals, which generally do not rely on drug databases for purchasing in the same manner as pharmacists.” Hullett Dec. 11, 2014 Decl. ¶ 9 (emphasis added).

Even though Hullett expressly recognized that the database listings for Me-PB-Hyos would have had a lesser impact on the sales of Donnatal elixir, Hofmann nonetheless included 100% of the decline in sales of sixteen ounce bottles of Donnatal elixir in his damages calculation. See Hofmann Rep. 31-32 (attributing 17,190 lost unit sales of elixir to Method). The court agrees with Method that Hofmann’s failure to account for the distinction recognized by Hullett further undermines the reliability of Hofmann’s lost profit calculations, as does his failure to address the fact that sales of Donnatal tablets and elixir followed the same trajectory during the period of alleged harm. See Tyger Constr. Co. v. Pensacola Constr. Co., 29 F.3d 137, 142 (4th Cir. 1994) (emphasizing that “[a]n expert’s opinion as to damages must be causally related to the alleged harm” and “should be excluded when it is based on assumptions which are speculative and are not supported by the record”).

For these and other reasons cited by Method, the court will exclude Hofmann’s opinion that Concordia suffered “no less than \$29.4 million” in lost profits from June 2014 through June 2015 “due to the listing of Me-PB-Hyos” in the pharmaceutical databases. Hofmann Rep. ¶ 81.

To the extent Concordia argues that Method's criticisms of Hofmann's report go more to the weight of his expert testimony than its admissibility, the court disagrees. Concordia has simply not met its burden of showing that Hofmann's lost profits calculations rest upon a sufficient factual basis and a reliable application of established principles and methods. Accordingly, his opinion as to the total amount of lost profit damages incurred by Concordia must be excluded under Rule 702, Daubert, and its progeny.³

IV. Wills

Method retained John Wills as a rebuttal damages expert. Wills did not attempt to offer his own opinion regarding the amount of damages suffered by Concordia. Instead, he evaluated Hofmann's report and ultimately opined that the lost profit damages compiled by Mr. Hofmann "are speculative and inconsistent with the facts in this case." Wills Rep. 2.

In light of the court's decision to exclude Hofmann's opinion on the amount of lost profit damages incurred by Concordia, it appears that Wills' rebuttal opinions are no longer relevant and that his attendance at trial may be unnecessary. Accordingly, the motion to exclude Wills' rebuttal opinions will be dismissed without prejudice. Should Method ultimately elect to call Wills as a witness and elicit expert opinions from him, the court will revisit the admissibility of his opinions.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Method's motion to exclude certain opinions of Dr. Reisetter will be denied; Concordia's motion to exclude certain opinions of Dr. Fassett will be denied;

³ As the court noted in ruling on the parties' cross-motions for summary judgment, the court's decision to limit the opinions offered by Hofmann does not necessarily preclude him from testifying altogether. His specialized knowledge could still assist the jury in other ways, and Concordia may present objective data and elicit other factual testimony from Hofmann to support its claim for damages.

Method's motion to exclude Hofmann's opinion on the amount of lost profit damages incurred by Concordia will be granted; and Concordia's motion to exclude Wills' rebuttal opinions will be dismissed without prejudice.

The Clerk is directed to send copies of this memorandum opinion and the accompanying order to all counsel of record.

DATED: This 13th day of April, 2016.



Chief United States District Judge